

Date: February 1, 1999

To: Home Health Agencies

From: Judy Fryback, Director
Bureau of Quality Assurance

DSL-BQA-99-006

HHA 3

Outcome Assessment Information Data Set (OASIS) UPDATE – **Memo # 4**

What's New

OASIS Regulations Published
Manual Revisions
Educational Opportunities
OASIS Software installed

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information related to the federal Outcome Assessment Information Data Set (OASIS) implementation.

OASIS Regulations Published

The federal Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has announced that the regulations for OASIS have been published as final rule, effective January 25, 1999. A copy of the final regulations is enclosed for your reference.

Home health agencies will need to begin collecting OASIS data as part of their patient assessment process 30 days after publication, i.e., by February 24, 1999. OASIS data are to be collected at the following time points: start of care, resumption of care after an inpatient stay, follow-up (including re-certification and other

follow-up), and discharge/death. Sixty days after publication (March 26, 1999), agencies will be expected to begin encoding their OASIS data, (that is, entering the OASIS data into a computer), and begin testing their data transmission systems. Ninety days after publication (April 26, 1999), all certified home health agencies will begin transmitting to the State agency the OASIS data they collected in the prior month and monthly thereafter. Agencies will not be expected to report start of care OASIS data on patients admitted to the agency prior to the encoding effective date.

EFFECTIVE DATES

OASIS Data Collection - February 24, 1999

Encoding and Testing - March 26, 1999

Reporting Begins - April 26, 1999

Manual Revision

The Bureau of Quality Assurance (BQA) has been advised that the *OASIS System User's Guide*, which covers data submission procedures, has been revised. We have enclosed a copy of the December 1, 1998, revision for your reference.

The Bureau of Quality Assurance has made available for purchase three HCFA training manuals that agencies need to implement the HCFA OASIS regulations. **Please refer to DSL-BQA memorandum 99-005 for manual order number and cost.** If you are interested in purchasing these manuals, please send your request, specifying the manual/manuals you would like to purchase, with a check made payable to the *Division of Supportive Living*, to the following address:

**Bureau of Quality Assurance
Attention: Barb Carey
PO Box 309
Madison WI 53701**

NOTE: Contact Barb Carey, at 608-267-1446, to obtain information about special rates associated with ordering 5 or more manuals, 5 or more copies of any individual manual, or for purchase by tax exempt agencies.

OASIS Educational Opportunities

The Bureau of Quality Assurance is planning three OASIS Educational Teleconference Network (ETN) programs on the following dates:

OASIS Regulations and Implementation
February 17, 1999 2:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Topic to be announced
March 15, 1999 2:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Topic to be announced
April 13, 1999 11:30 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.

These programs are provided free of charge and there is no need to pre-register with the Bureau of Quality Assurance. A list of the ETN listening locations is attached for your reference. Select the most convenient listening location and contact them directly prior to the program to schedule your attendance.

OASIS Software Installed

The software necessary to receive and process OASIS data at the State was installed in early January 1999. Home health agencies will be able to submit test data around the end of February 1999. Agencies should refer to BQA Memo 98-058, dated November 25, 1998, for further information on OASIS automation. Home health agencies are encouraged to consult the HCFA web site often for information on automation and other aspects of OASIS implementation. The OASIS web address is

<http://www.hcfa.gov/medicare/hsqb/oasis/oasishmp.htm>.

In addition, the following resources are currently available to provide support to home health agencies for OASIS implementation and the HAVEN software:

HAVEN Help Line:
1-877-201-4721 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Central Time)

HAVEN E-mail address:
HAVEN_HELP@IFMC.ORG

Home health agencies that wish to receive the HAVEN software should register for it now, either on the OASIS web site at <http://www.hcfa.gov/medicare/hsqb/oasis/hhsoftw.htm>, or by contacting the HAVEN help line. Registration will allow you to receive a free copy of the HAVEN CD-ROM.

BQA Internet Site

The Bureau of Quality Assurance has established an Internet site for information on home health agencies. Included are links to HCFA press releases, copies of BQA memos and letters, and other items.

You may access this site at:

Please direct any questions you may have regarding OASIS data collection to Barbara Woodford, OASIS Educational Coordinator, at (608) 264-9896. Questions related to software and data transmission should be directed to Richard Betz, OASIS Automation Coordinator, at (608) 264-9898.

http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/rl_DSL/HHAs/HHAintro.htm

Attachments

JF/BW/tm

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